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Class XXX

What has been ALF's impact on you? On the community? On organizations and people that you work with?

I don't think anyone has ever said "yes" to ALF faster than I did when I was nominated! I was so excited! I had been dying to do this program for years. In my mind, this was *THE* leadership program of my lifetime. Someone else put the notion in my mind that ALF was the best program in the world and I took that to my mental bank.

From the beginning, I approached ALF with the understanding that this experience was going to allow me to make the changes that I didn't even know that I wanted to make.

The ALF experience is about exposing a group of leaders to each other's skills and abilities and helping one another. With the ALF directory you are really golden.

My most profound ALF experience was certainly the solo during our trip to Colorado, and the conversations after. It felt like a lifetime of being alone—but I also didn't want it to end because I was journaling and had so much more to write! Sitting in the field, in a valley, looking up at the mountain, I felt God was with me. I wrote a page of who really I am which I'd never done before. It was deeply profound.

One thing my buddy said after our solo experience that has really stuck with me is that he doesn't want to lead a solely transactional life. I've taken this comment to heart as well and realize that I don't have to have an outcome every time I do something. I can just "be". I never "be'd" at all before ALF!

ALF is a "safe" place.

Why were you interested in serving on the ALF board?

I love this organization and was so honored when I was asked to serve on the board. I actually started crying when they called me! What I can do is bring people to the table. ALF has helped me do that too. I am so honored to be part of this organization and to be part of what we are doing in the community.

Where do you think ALF has been most successful? Most need/opportunity for ALF in the future?

I think ALF is truly excellent in creating opportunities for relationships between leaders. Unfortunately in most cases leaders are lonely. Leading an organization is not always the most popular position. ALF creates a safe place for us, there's nothing like it and no other group is attempting it. Other groups have agendas. The ALF agenda is supporting diverse leaders and helping them to be greater.

Are you aware of any collaborations from your class as a result of ALF introductions? After your class?

The east end collaborative came out of my class—that's phenomenal. There are lots of potential collaborations too—especially since we are so supportive of one another! We're all supporting Steve Costello for Mayor!

Are there any ALF lessons/techniques that you apply in your daily life/professional/community life?

"Being"—changed the way that I deal with everyone. I think that the curriculum is excellent. The all day Friday classes work.

From the very beginning at our opening retreat at Camp Allen, listening to our classmates 7 minute stories we didn't want to leave each other-- for the rest of our lives. ALF has been as powerful a course as any I've ever taken. I say this all the time.

Can you describe an experience where people from very different backgrounds/perspectives learned something from one another in your class?

Absolutely! We had a pretty tense racial conversation. It made the glue that "is" our class. Everyone engaged in it. We opened up a conversation that isn't comfortable and we had it. It was real and a big deal for all of us. Everyone was thinking.

Is there anything else that you'd like to share?

You get what you give. The reason our class is so close and vocal is that we make a huge effort to stay together. Our sounding boards have official meetings scheduled. Committing to that is a lifelong gift. I think the Graduate program will be important for me in a few years.

Regarding ALF's gala, we made a commitment to have a fabulous event last year and we did! We're so excited about our honorees for this year, Arthur and Philamena Baird, who will receive the Joseph Jaworski Leadership Award and the Fraga Family, who will receive the Public Service Award. And they are so honored, which is beyond thrilling. We'll sell out this year's event, that's my goal. Please plan join us on April 29th!